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Jon Fosse

NORWEGIAN PLAYWRIGHT JON FOSSE WINS NOBEL LITERATURE PRIZE

Jon Fosse was honoured for his innovative plays and prose which gave voice to the unsayable, the Swedish Academy said in a statement

AUTHOR OF *BOATHOUSE, MELANCHOLY* I AND II

Critics say Fosse's work is minimalistic, relying on simple language that delivers its message through rhythm, melody, and silence and is defined more by form than content, where what is not said is often more revealing than what is. His major works include *Boathouse*, published in 1989, and *Melancholy* I and II (1995-1996). The former was well-received by critics | P12

HIS PLAYS AMONG MOST WIDELY STAGED

- Fosse's plays are among the most widely staged of any contemporary playwright in the world. He has written about 40 plays as well as novels, short stories, children's books and essays
- "His radical reduction of language and dramatic action expresses the most powerful human emotions... in the simplest terms," the jury said

Fourth
NORWEGIAN WRITER TO WIN THE NOBEL LITERATURE PRIZE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

SC grills CBI, ED on graft proof against Sisodia

Seeks chain of evidence in liquor policy scam, asks how case against him was established

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation over the "chain of evidence" in the Delhi excise policy case against jailed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia, asking how a case was made out against the former Delhi deputy chief minister.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V N Bhatti asked Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who appeared for the probe agencies how the ED will establish Sisodia's involvement in money laundering factually and legally. "He may be aware it may be used, as per your case, but he never came in actual physical possession," the court said during Sisodia's bail hearing.

Raju argued Sisodia played a key role in generating proceeds by orchestrating the policy change. To this, the bench replied: "You have to establish a chain. The money has to flow from the liquor lobby to the concerned person."

The bench said most of the allegations in the corruption case registered by the CBI against Sisodia were "hearsay", based on the statements made by approvers and would not pass scrutiny before the trial court without any concrete material.

Merely because some lobby or pressure groups had sought a certain policy change does not imply there was corruption or commission of crime unless an element of bribery was involved, the top court said.

"Pressure groups are always there but policy changes without money consideration will not matter. It's the money part which makes it an offence," the bench said.

Appearing for Sisodia, senior advocate Dr A M Singhvi said a query by the bench to the ED on Wednesday, as to why the AAP or its office bearers have not been made an accused in the money laundering case, was widely sensationalised by the media. To this, court said that it would not get influenced by the media and clarified that it was a legal question.

NEXT HEARING ON OCT 12

The Supreme Court is hearing two separate bail petitions of Manish Sisodia. The court will take up the matter for further hearing on Oct 12

NDA call to play 'Rohini card' against caste survey

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AMID a growing clamour from Opposition parties to hold a nationwide caste census, the Centre may implement the recommendations of the Rohini panel as a countermeasure to consolidate the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

With the Narendra Modi government remaining ambivalent on holding caste census, NDA allies Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), Apna Dal (S) and the Republican Party of India are pushing for implementation of the Rohini panel report at the earliest.

The Justice G Rohini-headed panel was tasked with the sub-categorisation of OBCs to ensure equitable redistribution of reservation and other benefits among the communities.

According to sources, the panel has categorised the 2,600-odd OBC communities into three bands and fixed 8-10% reservation for those groups that haven't availed reservation benefits for long. The panel found that 983 castes received no benefits, while 994 jostled for 2.68% of the 27% of the quota pie.

REPORT AFTER SIX YEARS, 14 EXTENSIONS

The Centre had formed the Commission in 2017 to sub-categorise the OBCs and submit a report within 12 weeks. The Commission, headed by ex-chief justice of Delhi High Court G Rohini, submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu on July 31, 2023 — six years after it was constituted, and following 14 extensions

The BJP has been on the back foot ever since the Bihar caste survey revealed that over two-thirds of the state's population belonged to "backward" communities.

Speaking to this newspaper, SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar expressed hope that the Modi government will conduct a nationwide caste census and implement the Rohini panel report at the earliest. "The Rohini panel report may be implemented before the election," said Rajbhar, adding that it is important to know the count of the communities to know the level of deprivation.

Apna Dal (S) leader and Union minister Anupriya Patel has raised the issue several times in Parliament. "Apna Dal has always demanded a caste-based census and we continue to do it," she said recently.

Republican Party of India leader and Union Minister Ramdas Athawale told this newspaper that he does not agree with states conducting caste surveys and that the Centre should do a nationwide caste census.

Tenders for B'luru tunnel road project in 45 days, says DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said tenders will be invited within 45 days for the proposed mega project of 190-km tunnel roads to ease traffic congestion in the city.

Of the nine companies, which had evinced interest in the project, eight have been selected. They have been asked to give feasibility reports soon, he told reporters here.

Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru Development Minister, said several companies had submitted proposals for the mega project. "We received ideas and suggestions on road infrastructure, congestion relief, tunnel roads and road widening. We had suggested that capital should be brought in for the project. As the mega project was open to international players, nine companies evinced interest in it," he said.

DyCM D K Shivakumar addresses the media on Thursday | MAGARAJ M GADEKAL

BBMP TO FILL POTHOLES BY NOV 30

Shivakumar said the BBMP engineers should take the help of traffic police and fix the potholes. "I have asked Palike officials to fix the potholes by November 30," he said.

Since it is a mega project and requires huge funding, it will be implemented in stages. Ballari Road, Old Madras Road, Esteem Mall Junction to Mekhri Circle, Millers Road, Chalukya Circle, Trinity Circle, Sarjapur Road, Hosur Road, Kanakapura Road to Krishna Rao Park, Mysuru Road to Sirsi Circle, Magadi Road, Tumkur Road to Yeshwantpur Junction, Outer Ring Road, Goraguntepalya, KR Pura, and Silk Board area have been identified on priority basis, Shivakumar said.

The State Government will seek help from the Centre. A proposal will be submitted once the companies give their feasibility reports. "I have already discussed the project with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari as vehicles enter Bengaluru from the national highways and cause traffic congestion in the city. He has responded positively," Shivakumar said. P2

33% quota for OBCs in ULBs, panchayat polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE State cabinet on Thursday approved the recommendation of the Justice Bhaktavatsala Commission to grant 33% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in urban local bodies (ULBs) and panchayat elections. However, the quota should not exceed 50%, the Commission stated in its report.

Revealing this to reporters after the cabinet meeting, Law Minister HK Patil said the Commission made five recommendations in July last year. Of them, three were accepted by the cabinet on Thursday.

He said as per the present classification of OBCs as Backward Classes Category A and Category B, the aggregate of reservation in favour of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes should not exceed 50% of the total seats. The cabinet approved the Commission's second recommendation to consider reserving the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the BBMP for OBCs, Patil said.

No change in term

The cabinet rejected the recommendation to amend the KMC Act for other ULBs to provide a 30-month term for Mayor and Dy Mayor.

On the third recommendation, Patil said the cabinet gave its approval to bring all urban local bodies' election wings under the control of DPAR, which is under the CM. Asked if this will not affect the autonomy of the State Election Commission?, Patil said the Commission's autonomy will not be touched. All these years, facilities such as offices and vehicles were given by RDPR, which will now be under the DPAR.

The cabinet also rejected the reclassification of Backward Classes Category A and B into two more categories of BCs.

DyCM for property tax on govt offices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Thursday that the State Government is contemplating bringing in a new system of property tax collection as it is not happy with the existing one.

As part of the new system, it will be made mandatory for offices of the State and Union governments to pay property tax, he told reporters here.

Shivakumar said every property has to be scrutinised to know if its owner is paying tax accordingly or evading it.

"We are not satisfied with the existing tax system as only Rs 3,000 crore is being collected. So, we are thinking of a new system of tax collection. I have written to those concerned that government offices should also pay property tax," he said.

Pointing out that HAL has paid Rs 93 crore tax, he said he has instructed state government offices such as KPTCL to pay property tax. "Let's collect taxes from the government first. We have to discuss Mohan Das Pai's recommendations on taxation," he added.

Shivakumar said all properties, including houses, will be scrutinised as some commercial establishments now pay taxes applicable for residential properties. To a query, he said the self-assessment of property tax can't be termed effective. It is not as effective as expected, he added.

Indian men's and women's compound team added two more gold medals to their bag in addition to the mixed team gold. Women's team beat Chinese Taipei, while the men's team trumped South Korea in the final....

MOTHER AND GOLD MEDALLIST

Dipika Pallikal, who took a four-year break from the sport to start a family, won gold in the squash mixed doubles with Harinder Pal Sandhu

OLYMPIC QUOTA LOST

After losing the semifinal against China, Indian women's hockey team missed out on a chance to win Paris quota | P17

EXPRESS READ

Sikkim flash flood: Toll rises to 18, search on for 98 missing

Kolkata: The toll in the flash flood in Sikkim mounted to 18 on Thursday as Army and NDRF teams continued their operation in the Teesta river basin and downstream north Bengal for the second day in search of 98 people who were swept away.

Canada cracks whip on eight Sikh youth over firearm possession

New Delhi: Eight Canadian Sikh youth have been arrested in a week in Brampton, all charged with firearm-related offences by the local police. The arrests happened after reports surfaced of shots fired in Brampton, which has a substantial Sikh community | P9

WITH THIS ISSUE

CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE
INDULGE
42 PAGES, INCLUDING 24 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

CROSS DISCIPLINARY

Coming soon, Department of Spiritual Medicine at AIIMS Delhi

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

INDIA's premier healthcare institute, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), has just formed a committee to recommend a roadmap for a department on spiritual medicine. Sections of the staff and faculty panned the decision, claiming it was deviating from evidence-based approach.

AIIMS Delhi issued an order stating that it should create new-cross disciplinary departments in transplant medicine, medical education and spiritual medicine.

The committee has been asked to give its recommendations by the end of October.

If the proposal fructifies, AIIMS will become the first government healthcare institute to open such a department which is not a branch of modern medicine.

Sections of the faculty, however, see it as "anti-science". "It's against scientific temperament and will put this premier health institute in a poor light," a senior professor said on condition of anonymity. The institute has been promoting anti-science activities for months and now it has decided to legitimise it in the form of a department, the professor added.

Dr Rima Dada, AIIMS spokesperson, said the proposal is in a nascent stage. It will take an integrated approach and aid the modern medicine departments. Yoga and Reiki will be part of it. There was, however, no clarity on the faculty who would run the department.

She pointed out that University of Michigan and Yale School of Medicine already have dedicated courses for spirituality in science. The institute is also planning to introduce spirituality in MBBS, according to sources.

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